

# 2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

## Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District



### Pleasant Valley Creek Bank Stabilization Project

- Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District's most significant accomplishment this year was the bank stabilization project on Pleasant Valley Creek that runs through the town of St. John. 1000 feet of creek bank was excavated, the channel dredged to improve flood conditions near the bridges and vegetation planted to reduce soil erosion during high water. This project will reduce the potential endangerment of property in the town due to flooding as well as improve water quality, benefit aquatic life, and improve aesthetics.



*Pleasant Valley Creek*

### Mission of the Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District

- To access federal, state, and local programs, resources and educational opportunities to assist our land owners and operators to maximize sustainable productivity, conserve and enhance all natural resources for now and future generations.

### Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- 1000 Feet of Pleasant Valley Creek embankment stabilized
- 1,382.1 acres of crop ground direct seeded saving 11,056.8 tons of soil.
- Planted 33,000 trees and shrubs on 50 acres of CRP and riparian areas
- Installed 7 Wildlife Guzzlers in partnership with Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

### Water Quality Implementation

- 1,382.1 acres of crop ground was direct seeded reducing the soil loss by 8 tons per acre –saving 11,056.8 tons of soil
- 1,000 ft of Pleasant Valley Creek stabilized with riprap to reduce erosion around the bridges in St. John. The banks were shaped to improve flood control through the city.
- 1 6ft. by 20ft drop structure was installed to stop the head-cut caused by water flowing over unprotected soil in the field.
- Installed 1 drop structure saving 1,400 cubic yards of soil

### Basic Funding

- Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District provided a quarterly publishing of the District Newsletter to approximately 310 cooperators, plus the communities of St. John, Endicott, and Lamont
- Provided a part-time Soil Lab Technician to allow cooperators in PRLCD and surrounding districts to test for nutrient management requirements for NRCS programs, and to be used as a field management tool in our NAPT certified soil lab
- Provided chemical supplies used in the soil lab.
- Provided for the overhead costs of building maintenance and office supplies.
- Provided training for the District employees at the WADE Conference held in Leavenworth WA
- Provided training for the District Supervisors at the WACD Convention in Tacoma WA

### Local Funding

- Received funding from the Verl Kaiser Foundation to assist in the Whitman County Envirothon Contest, the Whitman County Land Judging Contest and Local Conservation Education.
- Received funding from local businesses in St. John and Lamont to send 13-16 year olds to Inland Empire Natural Resources Youth Camp.

## **Air Quality Program**

- PRLCD administers the Agricultural Burning Permit Program under a sub-delegation from Whitman County for the Washington Department of Ecology. District staff worked one on one with 129 producers to assist them in filling out permits and helping them to meet a voluntary self-imposed reduction in field burning. For the fall and spring seasons a total of 159 Field Permits and 58 Spot Permits were issued for a total of 11,533 acres.

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## **Professional Engineering**

- Provided a landscape design to stabilize the banks of Pleasant Valley Creek.
- Designed and oversaw the installation of a drop structure on 1 producers farm.

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## **Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration**

- Planted 33,000 trees and shrubs on 50 acres of CRP and Riparian areas for a total of 8 contracts.
- Installed 7 wildlife guzzlers in partnership with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife.

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## **Community Collaboration & Coordination**

- Worked in cooperation with the Spokane County C.D. by offering a low interest loan to local producers for conservation tillage equipment.
- Worked with County Commissioners from 4 counties, the NRCS, Conservation Districts and the local RC&D coordinator to strengthen and reactivate the Upper Columbia RC&D by attending 10 monthly meetings and assisting in the area planning processes.
- Worked with the NRCS in becoming certified Technical Service Providers in order to help PRLCD cooperators complete NRCS program requirements.
- Worked with the Department of Corrections to coordinate riparian and upland CRP tree and shrub plantings for farmers in Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District.
- Worked with 20 St. John/Endicott High School Students in cleaning out the Pleasant Valley Creek to prepare for excavation of the bank stabilization project.

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## **Marketing/Outreach & Education**

- Assisted the NRCS, FSA, WDFW and 2 neighboring Conservation Districts to set up and man a Conservation Booth at the Whitman County Palouse Empire Fair. Approximately 1000 people visited the booth to inquire about new agency programs, practices, and educate the youth about conservation stewardship.
- Hosted the Whitman County Envirothon Contest in which 95 High School students competed in the areas of Wildlife, Soils, Environmental Issues, Forestry, Aquatics, and team presentations.
- Assisted Pine Creek Conservation District with the Whitman County Land Judging Contest in which over 200 High School Students competed to identify different soil types.
- Distributed educational materials to approximately 54 students at the Endicott Elementary School and 73 students at the St. John Elementary School to celebrate Soil Stewardship Week.
- PRLCD Board and Staff held board positions with the following organizations: WACD Plant Materials Center, Inland Empire Natural Resources Youth Camp, Washington State Conservation Commission, Palouse Local Workgroup, and the WACD Dryland Ag Committee.
- Published 4 monthly newsletters to approximately 310 cooperators, plus the communities of Endicott, St. John and Lamont through the "Community Current" (a local newspaper in which the circulation reaches well over 2000 homes and businesses).
- Hosted 3 local Conservation Security Program Meetings in the communities of St. John and Lamont where approximately 225 cooperators were in attendance.
- Assisted the Southeast Washington Area Districts in hosting a 9<sup>th</sup> District Legislative Luncheon.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



*Drop Structure*